



DMR

Maine Department of Marine Resources

Recreational Saltwater Fishing Newsletter

Volume 8 Number 1 Spring 2003

7 NEW SALTWATER GAME FISH RECORDS IN 2002!

SEE STORY
PAGE 2

DEAR CAPTAINS, MATES AND ANGLERS,

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Department of Marine Resources' "Saltwater Fishing Newsletter". After the winter we have just gone through, I can't imagine there are many anglers out there who are not chomping at the bit to wet a line! We all can only guess what 2003 will bring but we do know what happened in 2002. I would like to briefly recap these highlights as seen through our field observations.

OFFSHORE: Anglers targeting groundfish experienced some great fishing throughout 2002 as evidenced by the 440 cod and hake Tackle-Buster entries. As the news spread of good groundfishing, more and more private boat anglers gave the inshore humps like Trinidad and Tanta's a shot, generally with pleasing results. The Atlantic bluefin tuna season officially opened June 1; however, fishable numbers of giants did not appear until, as usual, the Bailey Island Tournament. The bite remained spotty for the big guys throughout the season (unless you fished off Chatham, MA) though we had good numbers of undersized fish show up towards the end. Shark fishing started out slow and never really kicked into gear, although we did have a few show off Wells Beach along with a lively thresher in Frenchman's Bay!

INSHORE: Stripers showed in fishable numbers along the western Maine coast by the beginning of May and worked their way east showing in most of the typical haunts when expected. While there were plenty of stripers in the 18 to 32 inch range, trophy fish also were more numerous than in recent years. Generally, anglers fishing early morning/late evening did well, though bait fishing from the beaches was good both day and night. Surgical tube rigs coupled with a sandworm appeared to be the rig of choice for many boat fishermen from Cape Elizabeth west. Fly fishermen fared better in 2002. Though not the norm, it was also not uncommon for serious striper fishermen to have 20 - 40 fish days during 2002. Mackerel were

abundant along most of the coast all season except occasionally from Saco west due to bluefish. Bluefish were available to boat fishermen for a good part of the season from Scarborough to Kittery. Unfortunately for most of those of us who fish to the east, bluefish were very spotty with the occasional blitz here and there. The interest in shad continued to grow as we saw more and more people targeting the "poor man's tarpon," especially on the Saco, Kennebunk and Mousam Rivers.

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR STRIPED BASS IN 2003 AND 2004?

The governing body for striped bass on the Atlantic Coast, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), has declared, under the newly implemented Amendment 6 to the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Plan, that current agency regulations may remain status quo for 2003. This means Maine's regulations for 2003 are the same as in 2002; i.e. 1 slot fish or 1 trophy per day per angler. However, the ASMFC does require that all agencies submit their current or proposed regulations for 2004 to the ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee (SBTC) for review and determination if these regulations comply with the guidelines set under Amendment 6. After deliberations by the DMR

Recreational Advisory Committee, it was recommended that we submit our current regulations this spring to the SBTC. If this option is approved by the SBTC it will then be brought forward to public hearings during late summer/early fall for discussion. For a further explanation call 207-633-9505.



Atlantic Cod - 26.5 lbs.
Rebecca Ranta
Female Junior Angler Category
07/09/00



Atlantic Cod - 41 lbs.
Collin Morgan
Male Junior Angler Category
08/13/01

Photo upper left and right courtesy of Capt. Tim Tower



Doug Krebs barely manages to hold his
36 pound Tackle-Buster striper.
For more about Tackle-Busters see page six.

Photo courtesy of Doug Krebs

MAINE STATE SALTWATER GAME FISH RECORDS

In 1996 the responsibility of maintaining the Maine State Saltwater Game Fish Records Program was assumed by the DMR with the formation of the Maine State Saltwater Records Committee (MSSRC). The MSSRC mirrored the state program after the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) program with the exception of line class categories. Maine State Records are only all-tackle. There are four categories in which an angler may qualify a fish under the Maine State Saltwater Game Fish Program: Harpoon (only bluefin tuna and swordfish are eligible), Handline, Rod and Reel, and Fly Rod. The MSSRC meets annually to review applications and rules.

At the 2000 annual meeting the MSSRC unanimously decided to further expand the program and open a JUNIOR ANGLER CATEGORY for ages 16 and under. Originally the MSSRC decided that junior anglers would be governed by the same Maine State Saltwater Game Fish rules as adult anglers with the exception that junior anglers may weigh their fish in a boat on certified scales in order to facilitate live release (current IGFA rule). At the January 2003 annual meeting the MSSRC further defined the Junior Angler Category with the following changes:

1. In order to submit an application for acceptance, the fish has to be weighed on land, on a certified and registered scale, as all regular State Records have to be. The fish can't be weighed on the boat as it can for an IGFA Junior Angler World Record.

2. There is no time limit on a claim. For instance, if you can prove that your fifteen-year-old son landed a potential State Record fish in 1952, it can become a State Record.

3. A Junior Angler State Record fish will be accepted if the fish is caught tangled in other lines as long as the tangled situation doesn't aid in the catching or landing of the fish. The IGFA will disqualify you for tangles with a World Record claim.

4. You can lay the rod on the rail for support in landing a State Record fish as long as you hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff without anyone (helping) touching the rod or equipment. The IGFA will disqualify you for laying the rod on the rail with a World Record claim.

In addition, it was decided to divide the all-tackle category into both male and female classifications. The MSSRC reviewed eight potential

State Record applications at the 2003 meeting of which seven were accepted.

All the rules and regulations along with an application for qualifying a game fish can be obtained by calling 207-633-9500, e-mailing bruce.joule@maine.gov or you can download the information from: <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/recreational/rechomepage>. Also, at this site one can view pictures of all State Record fish.



Pollock - 34 lbs.
Andrew M. Tuttle
Male Junior Angler Category
08/11/97



Pollock - 38 lbs.
Dawn Hersom
Female Junior Angler Category
08/14/86



Atlantic Bluefin Tuna - 810 lbs.
Ian Bexon
Handline Category
09/07/98



Black Sea Bass - 1.75 lbs.
David Hutchins
Rod and Reel Category
06/08/02



Cusk - 33.42 lbs.
Kenton Geer
Rod and Reel Category
10/11/02

Photos, top to bottom, clockwise, courtesy of:
Capt. Tim Tower, Capt. Tim Tower, Capt. Tim Tower, David Hutchins and Ian Bexon

VOLUNTEER ANGLER LOGBOOK PROGRAM



Briefly, this program targets avid striped bass fishermen as a means of collecting additional length data. Though we have increased the sample size of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, it still misses lengths and weights on sub-legal or released stripers because Maine's striped bass fishery has length and bag limits. Coupled with the fact that many anglers opt for catch and release, field interviewers actually see limited numbers of fish: 117 for 2002. In contrast, volunteers in 2002 measured over 10,000 stripers.

The Volunteer Angler Logbook (VAL) program is quite simple. An angler records information about fish harvested or released during each trip for him/herself and any fishing companions. Information about each trip is also recorded, including: time spent fishing, area fished, number of anglers and target species. At the end of the season each angler mails his/her logbook to us, which we then copy and send back to the angler along with a Recreational Angler Program hat as a token of our appreciation.

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A summary of the 2002 data:

One hundred thirty-three logbooks were distributed during the 2002 fishing season, of which 68% (91) were returned and summarized. It's worth noting that 79% (105) participants responded in some manner at season's end, some noting no fishing for the season or lost logbooks. Logbook return rates were continuing to improve each year: 33% in 1998, 43% in 1999, 52% in 2000 and 74% in 2001; however, there was a slight decline (68%) this past season.

The following species were reported as being caught: alewife, American shad, Atlantic cod, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic salmon, black sea bass, blue shark, bluefin tuna, bluefish, brook trout, brown trout, catfish, cunner, cusk, flounder, haddock, hake, pollock, porbeagle shark, redfish, sculpin, sea robin, smallmouth bass, spiny dogfish, striped bass, sturgeon and white perch.

Effort:

- The 91 logbook keepers reported 2,231 fishing trips which, when multiplied by the number of logbook keepers and their fishing companions, results in 3,592 individual angler-trips.

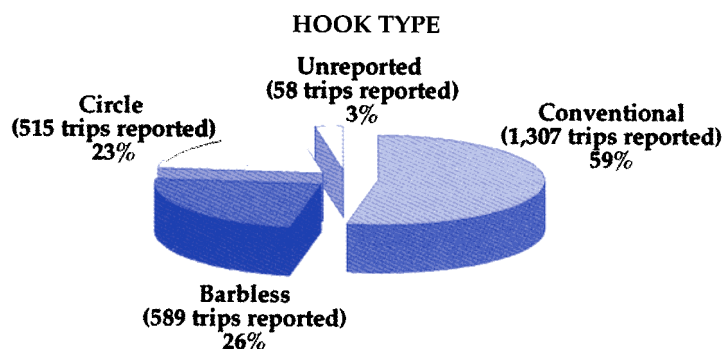
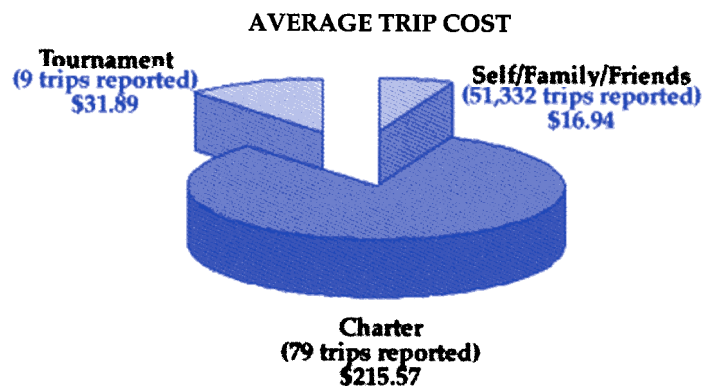
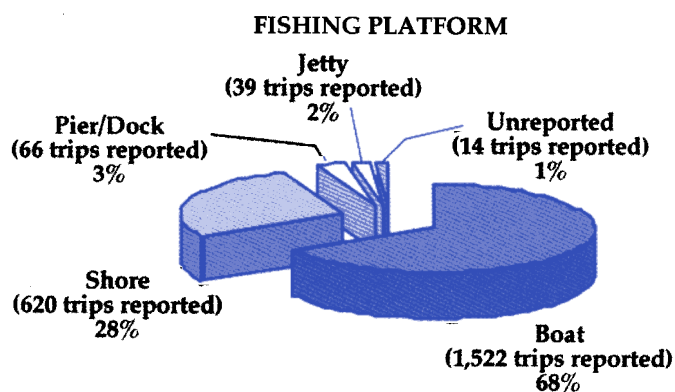
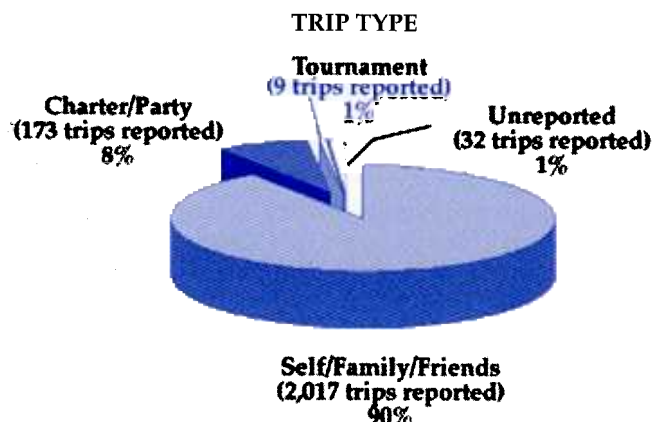
- The 91 logbook keepers reported they and their fishing companions fished over 11,223 angler-hours in the course of the season.

Catch:

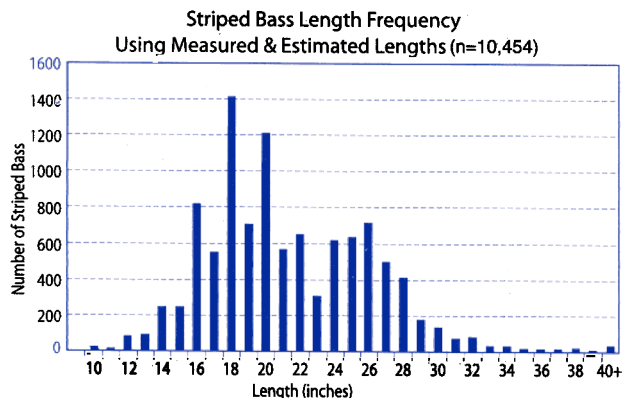
- The 91 logbook keepers and their fishing companions caught and measured 10,000 striped bass.

- One striped bass was caught per angler-hour on self/family/friends trips targeting striped bass as primary or secondary target (1,898 trips). This is the same as for the previous year.

Trip Details:



We are currently taking requests from individuals who would like to participate during 2003. If you are interested or need more details, please give me a call.



THE MAINE RECREATIONAL FISHERIES STATISTICS SURVEY

ABOUT THE MRFSS:

The Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) is a nation-wide program implemented in 1979 by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a means to establish a reliable database for estimating the impact of recreational fishing on marine resources. This survey is conducted in all U.S. coastal states. The information is used by Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), as well as federal and state resource agencies to formulate fishery management plans, to evaluate future demands on fish stocks and to predict and evaluate the impact of fishery regulations. Estimates generated from this survey include: total number of fish caught, released and harvested; weight of the harvest; total number of angler trips; and number of people participating in marine recreational fishing.

DESIGN OF THE MRFSS:

The MRFSS is designed as a complementary two-part survey comprised of a telephone and a field component. Numerous studies have proven this two-pronged approach provides more accurate information than a single survey because the telephone and field surveys are specifically designed to collect different, yet compatible information.

TELEPHONE:

The telephone component is a random digit dial survey of households used to identify those that contain recreational saltwater anglers. Data collected via telephone interviews are used to produce estimates of the total number of angler trips and number of people participating in marine recreational fishing.

FIELD:

To collect catch information, anglers are interviewed at fishing access sites. Estimates generated from this survey include: total number of fish caught, released and harvested and the weight of the harvest. In most states, the NMFS contracts private individuals to do the field survey work. In Maine, the DMR assumed responsibility for the survey because it was shown that we greatly improved on the accuracy and quantity of the information being collected. Further, the DMR is able to increase the number of angler interviews collected during the season several fold beyond the NMFS requirement for Maine, giving us a significantly improved database that generates more precise estimates.

The DMR's goal is to increase the number of angler interviews collected during the season to a level of approximately 2.5 times the base level required by the NMFS. During the May 1 through

October 31, 2002 sampling season, a total of 2,167 anglers were interviewed at various coastal sites from Kittery to Eastport. This number represents an additional 1,071 interviews above the NMFS base of 1,096 interviews. Specifically, by mode, we interviewed 632 shore anglers, 896 private boat anglers and 639 anglers who fished on charter or headboats.

Of the 2,167 anglers interviewed, 1,519 anglers (70%) had been saltwater fishing in Maine at least once in the twelve months prior to their interview while 1,212 anglers (56%) had been saltwater fishing in Maine at least once in the two months prior to their interview.

Some of the 2002 data highlights:

• How many people went fishing in Maine?

Approximately 315,600 anglers went saltwater recreational fishing in Maine, of which 143,404 were Maine residents (roughly 11% of Maine's population). It should be noted that that more out-of-state anglers than resident anglers saltwater fished in Maine. For a picture of the 5-year trend in saltwater participation see Figure 1.

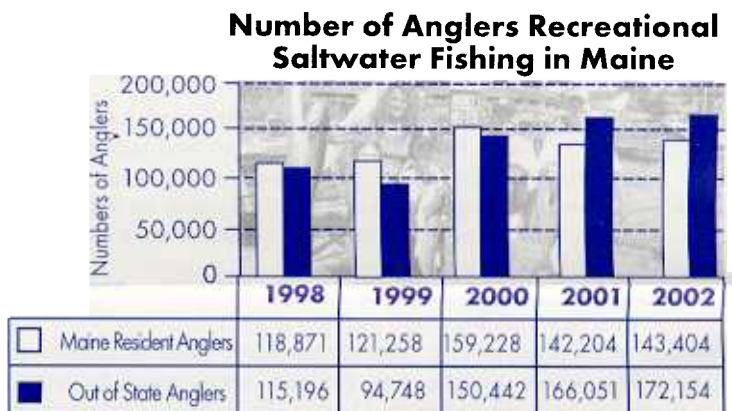


Figure 1. Numbers of resident and non-resident saltwater anglers in Maine from 1998 to 2002.

• How many fishing trips did these people make?

Anglers made over 905,654 individual fishing trips. For a picture of the 5-year trend in effort see Figure 2.

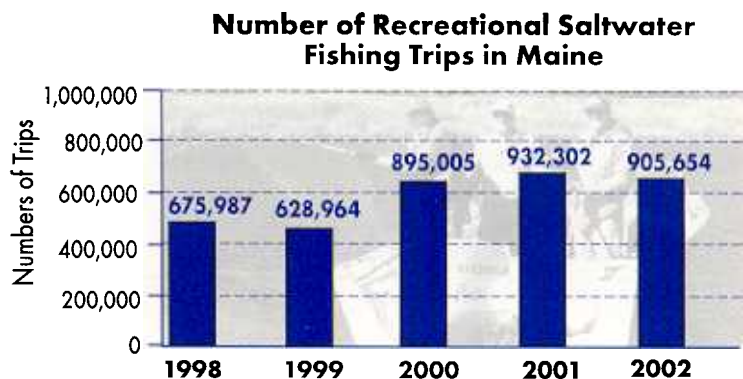
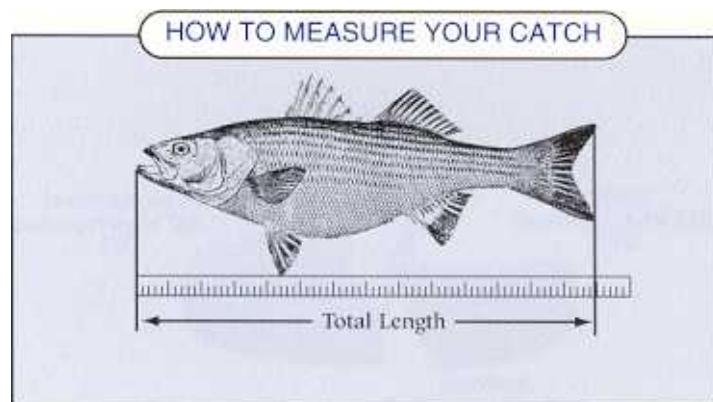


Figure 2. Individual saltwater fishing trips in Maine from 1998 to 2002.



For regulatory purposes, the total length measurement of a fish is used. The proper way to measure a fish is to place the fish on top of the measuring device. Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail.

• Where do the people come from?

People from 40 states and 3 foreign countries were interviewed.

- **What were anglers fishing for as their primary targeted species?**
Striped bass was the primary targeted species for:
59% of shore anglers,
77% of private boat anglers and
75% of charterboat anglers.
Atlantic cod was the primary targeted species for 32% of headboat anglers.

- **What did anglers catch?**

Alewife, American shad, Atlantic cod, Atlantic herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic wolffish, bluefish, blue shark, brown bullhead, brook trout, cunner, cusk, goosefish, haddock, longhorn sculpin, northern searobin, pollock, porbeagle shark, pumpkinseed, redfish, red hake, smallmouth bass, spiny dogfish, striped bass, white hake and whiting were all reported.

- **How did this year's catch compare to others?**

Striped bass: The total catch (includes harvested and released fish) in 2002 was approximately 1,453,000 striped bass. Of this total, approximately 73,800 were harvested which equates to about 5.1% of the total catch.

Figures 3 and 4 show yearly total catch and harvest, respectively, from 1998 to 2002. The length frequency distribution of all striped bass measured during the 2002 sampling season is shown in Figure 5. Note that length is measured to the center of the fork and not to total length.

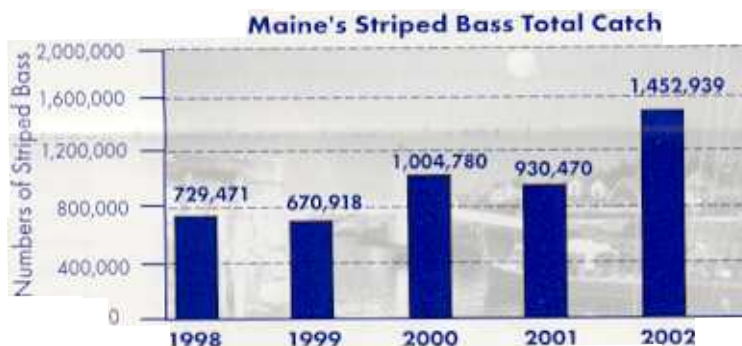


Figure 3. Total catch of striped bass in Maine from 1998 to 2002.

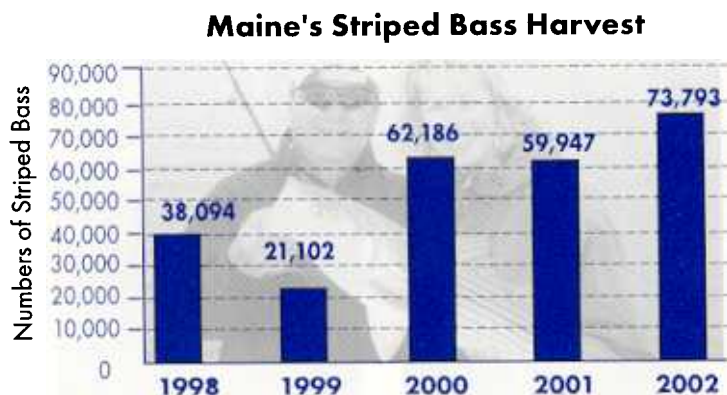


Figure 4. Total harvest of striped bass in Maine from 1998 to 2002.

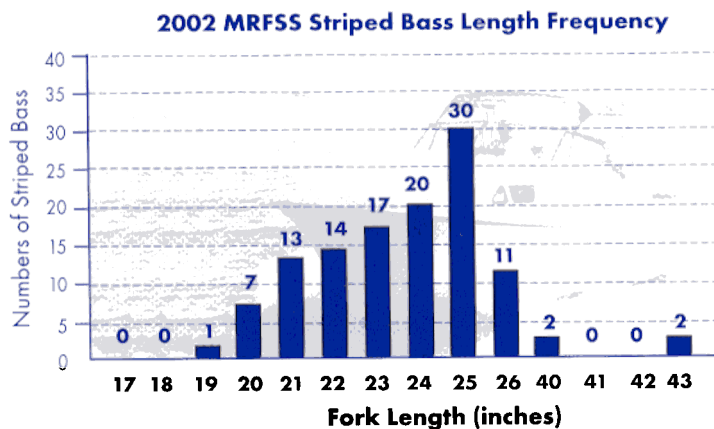


Figure 5. Striped bass length frequency distribution (based on actual measurements).

- **How did Maine's harvest stack up to the rest of the New England States?**
See Figure 6.

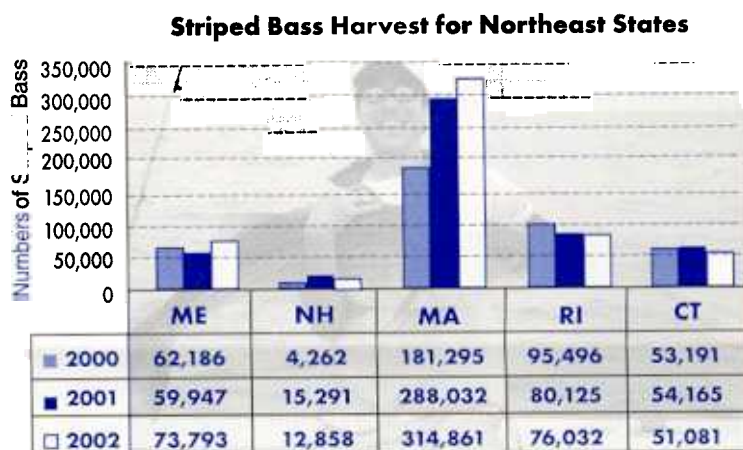


Figure 6. Northeast States harvest from 2000 to 2002.

Mackerel: The total catch in 2002 was approximately 1,441,000 mackerel of which about 1,207,000 (84%) were harvested. For comparison, see Figure 7 for total catch of Atlantic mackerel from 1998 to 2002.

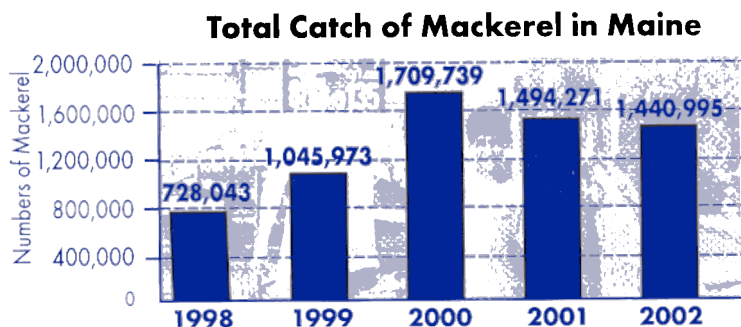


Figure 7. Total catch of Atlantic mackerel in Maine from 1998 to 2002.

For those of you interested in looking at information on other species or similar information for other states, log on to <http://www.st.nmfs.gov/st1/recreational/index.html>. This is really an easy-to-use informative site!

In addition to standard MRFSS questions, we request economic information. Our questions include:

- *What did you spend for today's fishing trip?* Includes everything related to the trip that is actually paid for only on this day, such as boat fees, gas, tolls, parking, bait and meals.
- *Is this a day trip or are you away from home for at least one night?*
If away from home for at least one night:
- *How many nights will you be away from home?*
- *How many days will you spend fishing?*
- *Would you have made this trip if you were not planning to fish?*

And the survey said:

Average Personal Daily Expenditures by Fishing Mode [] = number of anglers who answered

	SHORE	PRIVATE/RENTAL BOATS	HEAD & CHARTER BOATS	CHARTER BOATS
Maine Residents	\$10.33 [320]	\$13.48 [624]	\$86.99 [94]	\$160.77 [26]
Non-Maine Residents on a Day Trip	\$6.59 [32]	\$17.01 [113]	\$85.99 [76]	\$1143.33 [15]
Non-Maine Residents on an Extended Trip	\$16.91 [176]	\$23.88 [81]	\$135.95 [149]	\$232.11 [71]

Non-Maine Resident Extended Trip From Home (anglers away from home 1 to 30 nights)

	SHORE	PRIVATE/RENTAL BOATS	HEAD & CHARTER BOATS	CHARTER BOATS
Number of Anglers Who Responded	318	223	287	79
Ave. Days Away from Home	6	3	4	5
Ave. Days Spent Fishing	3	2	2	2
Would Not Have Made Extended Trip if Not Planning to Fish	19%	55%	41%	39%

It should be noted that these daily expenditures include only an individual's expenses for a specific day of fishing. Multiplying the above dollar amounts by the NMFS estimated total trips in Maine for 2002, daily personal expenses combine for a total in excess of **\$13,000,000**.

In addition, even more is spent in Maine for marina or docking fees, boat purchase loans, boat/engine repair, insurance, fishing tackle, overnight accommodations, and other related costs.

If during the course of the 2003 fishing season you encounter my staff or myself in the field, please give us a few minutes of your time to answer some questions about your fishing trip. It really is a painless process!

TACKLE-BUSTERS



This is a "club" of saltwater anglers who have landed a "BIG ONE" in Maine. The rules are simple; any of the fish listed below must be taken on rod and reel. Line testing strength is not limited. Live and cut baits may be used as well as artificial lures. Anglers who wish to apply for Tackle-Busters yet want to release their fish

unharmred may do so. If the fish measures the minimum qualifying length or greater, it qualifies. A photo of the fish beside a tape measure would provide the necessary verification of size. To join, simply fill out a Tackle-Busters card and mail with a photo of the fish. Look for displays of this program at a variety of bait and tackle shops and sporting goods stores. Application cards may be obtained from these displays or directly from our Department. Remember that even though a fish may make the minimum Tackle-Buster weight, if there is a regulatory minimum size, that size **MUST** be observed. For example, if an angler has a striped bass that weighs 26 pounds, it must still measure the legally required 40 inches or greater if the angler is to keep that fish.

Upon acceptance into the Tackle-Busters Club, the angler will receive a membership card, a Tackle-Busters decal and a decal of his/her Tackle-Buster fish.

During the 2002 season, 618 Tackle-Buster cards were submitted.
The largest fish in each category is as follows:

	Number Submitted	Weight	Length	Angler	Date
Bluefish	1	16.8 lbs.	38 inches	TED GOLEBIEWSKI	08/17/02
Cod	238	63 lbs.	53.5 inches	BOB SCALZO	09/23/02
Cusk	70	36 lbs.	43 inches	KENTON GEER	10/11/02
Haddock	46	11 lbs.	30 inches	ANGELO MAGRI	05/03/02
		11 lbs.	28.5 inches	SAM GARZONE	07/05/02
Hake	182	47 lbs.	49.25 inches	DAN LAMBERT	09/20/02
Mackerel	1	2.4 lbs.	18 inches	PEGGY JOHNSON	07/27/02
Pollock	35	44 lbs.	47.5 inches	DAVID DINSMORE	10/29/02
Shad	2	5.5 lbs.	23.75 inches	FRANCIS HOWELL	06/02/02
Striped bass	12		46 inches	RENE JARIZ	07/13/02
Thresher shark	1	169.5 lbs.	121 inches	JOE TUFTS	08/18/02
Wolffish	24	30.5 lbs.	43 inches	MATT DEAN	09/12/02

2003 Minimum qualifying weights and lengths

Bluefish	5 lbs. or 36 inches	Porbeagle shark ...	100 lbs.
Bluefin tuna	600 lbs.	Pollock	25 lbs.
Cod	25 lbs.	Redfish	2 lbs.
Cusk	12 lbs.	Shad	21 inches
Haddock	7 lbs.	Striped bass	25 lbs. or 42 inches
Hake	25 lbs.	Thresher shark ...	100 lbs.
Mackerel	2 lbs.	Winter flounder ..	2 lbs.
Mako shark	250 lbs.	Wolffish	15 lbs.
Monkfish	20 lbs.	Whiting	3 lbs.

All species in bold are either new, or weights and/or lengths have been changed.



Photos courtesy of Capt. Tim Tower

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR 2003

These rules apply to all the waters of the State of Maine within the rise and fall of the tide and within the marine limits of the State, but not including areas above any fishway or dam when the fishway or dam is the dividing line between tidewater and freshwater.

Recreational Marine Fishing License Information

- **Saltwater angling licenses are not required for recreational saltwater angling.** A commercial license is required when any marine species is sold and when more than the recreational bag limits are in the possession of the angler. There are regulations covering size, bag limits, possession limits and methods of fishing for, but not limited to, the following species: Atlantic salmon, Atlantic bluefin tuna, sturgeon, striped bass, bluefish, cod, haddock, halibut, pollock, redfish, smelt, winter/summer flounder and sharks. Current recreational saltwater fishing information can be obtained by contacting the Recreational Marine Fisheries Program, Maine DMR, PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; 207-633-9500.
- **Angling for freshwater fish in tidal waters** - All rules governing methods of taking, size, bag, and possession limits conform with the Maine IF&W general law open water fishing regulations. It is unlawful to jig for freshwater fish (brown trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, black crappie, rainbow trout, brook trout, chain pickerel and landlocked salmon) in the coastal waters of Maine.
- **Recreational shellfishing** (clams, quahogs, oysters, mussels) is permitted in designated open areas. Most harvest of soft shell clams is regulated by the individual towns. Contact your town for local regulations and permits.
For updated information on Red Tide closures call the Red Tide Hotline at 1-800-232-4733.
For information on shellfishing areas closed due to pollution or contamination call the DMR labs at 207-633-9500 (Kittery to Cape Jellison) or 207-667-5654 (Cape Jellison to Eastport).

Statewide regulations pertaining to recreational shellfish possession limits are as follows:

- **Soft Shell Clams** (*Mya arenaria*) - any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day that conforms with 2" minimum size law.
- **Surf/Hen Clams** (*Spisula solidissima*) - any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **Mahogany Quahogs** (*Arctica islandica*) - any person may take and possess up to 3 bushels per day.
- **Quahogs** (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) - any person may take and possess up to 1/2 bushel per day.
- **Oysters** (*Crassostrea virginica* & *Ostrea edulis*) - any person may take and possess 1/2 bushel per day. Note: For specific regulations on European oysters please contact your local Marine Patrol Officer.
- **Mussels** (*Mytilus edulis*) - any person may take and possess up to 2 bushels per day.
- **Marine Worms** - an individual may take and possess 125 marine worms (blood, sand and clam worms) per day for bait.
- **Scallops** - an individual must have a non-commercial scallop license to fish for scallops (hand/drag). Further, a non-commercial license holder may not sell scallops and may not take or possess more than 2 bushels of shellstock or 4 quarts of shucked scallops.
- **Lobster/Crab** - a non-commercial lobster and crab license is available and allows up to five traps for personal use only (no sale of lobsters). All other provisions of lobster and crab laws otherwise apply to this recreational license.

For further information please call DMR at 207-624-6550.

Law Enforcement

Your local Marine Patrol Officer can be contacted through the following offices:

- Division I (Kittery - Thomaston) - Bureau of Marine Patrol, PO Box 8, McKown Point, W. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04575; 207-633-9595.
- Division II (Thomaston - Calais) - Bureau of Marine Patrol, 22 Coaling Station Lane, Ellsworth, ME 04605; 207-667-3373.
- For emergencies, 24 hours per day, Marine Patrol Officers are available through the Maine State Police at:
1-800-452-4664, Augusta Barracks 1-800-228-0857, Gray Barracks
1-800-432-7381, Orono Barracks
1-800-432-7303, Washington County Regional Communications-Machias

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SHARK AND TUNA FISHERMEN IN 2003YOU MUST HAVE A NMFS HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES RECREATIONAL PERMIT!

Until 2002, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) regulations required only vessels fishing recreationally for Atlantic tunas to obtain an Atlantic tunas Angling category permit. This rule has changed such that the Atlantic tunas Angling category permit has changed to an Atlantic HMS Angling permit, and is required for all vessels fishing recreationally for Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, and billfish. This permit requirement became effective March 1, 2003. For more information contact the NMFS at 978-281-9260 or visit their website at <http://nmfpermits.com>.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Warning: Chemicals in some Maine saltwater fish may harm people who eat them. Women who are or may become pregnant and children should carefully follow the Safe Eating Guidelines.

The Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health has issued a health advisory for several saltwater species for 2002. It's hard to believe that fish that look, smell, and taste fine may not be safe to eat. But the truth is that some saltwater fish have mercury, PCBs and Dioxins in them. All these chemicals settle into the ocean from the air. PCBs and Dioxins also flow into the ocean through our rivers. These chemicals then build up in fish.

Small amounts of mercury can damage a brain starting to form or grow. That's why babies in the womb, nursing babies, and young children are at most risk. Mercury can also harm older children and adults, but it takes larger amounts.

PCBs and Dioxins can cause cancer and other health problems if too much build up in your body. Due to the possible presence of these chemicals, the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health asks that all consumers of the following saltwater species adhere to the following safe eating guidelines.

SAFE EATING GUIDELINES

- Striped Bass and Bluefish: Eat no more than 2 meals per month.
- Shark, Swordfish, King Mackerel, and Tilefish: Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant and children under 8 years of age are advised to not eat any swordfish or shark. All other individuals should eat no more than 2 meals per month.
- All other ocean fish and shellfish, including canned fish and shellfish: Pregnant and nursing women, women who may get pregnant and children under 8 years of age should eat no more than 2 meals per week.

Anyone wanting further information concerning fish consumption advisories should contact the Bureau of Health directly at (886)-292-3474 or visit their web site: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/etp>.

Where to look for the latest information in 2002

Bruce Joule's weekly saltwater sportfish update column appears each Thursday in the Portland Press Herald Sports Section, from May through October and can be found at the Portland Press Herald web site on the Saltwater Angling page, <http://outdoors.maine.com/fishing/bruce/> or at the DMR website <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/recreational>.

This column is updated each Thursday and discusses what is going on, what people are catching, where, with what, etc. along with observations from our angler survey along the coast.

In addition, at our web site, anglers can find information about:

- Saltwater fishing regulations
- Know your catch
- Catch and release tips
- Marine recreational angler survey
- Maine's charter/partyboat fleet
- Maine State Saltwater Angler Records rules, application, current record holders and photos
- Tackle-Busters Club rules, application and photos



Joe Tufts and the Rock 'N Reel crew show off their first place thresher shark at the MDA tourney.



Nicole Harmon and John Risbara proudly display their mackerel entries at the MDA tourney.

MAINE'S 2002 TOURNERY SEASON

The 64th Annual Bailey Island Fishing Tournament, the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament, the 11th Annual Royal River Striper Tournament and the 4th Annual MDA & ERA Agency 1 Sport Fishing Tournament

were the four major saltwater fishing tournaments held in Maine during 2002. With their catches of everything from mackerel to giant bluefins, these tournaments offered anglers the opportunity to capture great prizes as well as bragging rights.



The crew of the La Vida pose with their first place, 596-pound tuna at the Sturdivant Island Tourney.



A happy angler weighs in his striped bass at the MDA Tourney.

In conclusion,
Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or would like more information about a particular topic. I am always looking for people to provide me with fishing information from anywhere along the coast. If you are interested please give me a call or e-mail. Thanks for all of your support.
Sincerely,

Bruce J. Joule
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fax: 207-633-9579 • E-mail: bruce.joule@maine.gov

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